



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

AS

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

09/474,043 12/28/99 THOMAS

0

025207 IM22/1011  
BERSTEIN & ASSOCIATES, PC  
6600 PEACHTREE DUNWOODY RD, NE  
EMBASSY ROW 400, SUITE 495  
ATLANTA GA 30328-1649

EXAMINER

WATKINS, III, W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1772

DATE MAILED:

10/11/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/474,043

Applicant(s)

THOMAS ET AL.

Examiner

William P. Watkins III

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24-May-00 prelim.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 May 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3 sheets.                      6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: 1772

#### DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-13, 20-25, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berry (U.S. 4,414,970) in view of Miller (U.S. 5,840,632).

Berry teaches the use of an elastomeric film on a fabric substrate in a personal care article with one embodiment of the film being permeable and microporous (col. 2, lines 40-55). Miller teaches the formation of microporous elastomeric films, which may be comprised of styrenic tri-block polymers by the use of blowing agents (col. 4, lines 30-60). The instant invention claims the use of a microporous permeable film on a fabric substrate where the film has been made by use of a blowing agent and may comprise styrenic tri-block polymers. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have made

Art Unit: 1772

the porous elastomeric films of Berry using blowing agents and styrenic block polymers because of the teachings of Miller that a blowing agent and these materials can be used to produce porous elastomeric films.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1-13, 21 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a and e) as being anticipated by Miller (U.S. 5,840,632).

See col. 4, lines 30-60. The reference teaches elastomeric films made with blowing agents.

5. Claims 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berry in view of Miller as applied to claims

Art Unit: 1772

1-13, 20-25 and 29 above, and further in view of Shah et al.

(U.S. 5,786,412).

Berry in view of Miller teaches an elastomeric microporous film on a substrate as noted above. Shah et al. teaches the use of polyurethanes to made elastomeric films as well as styrenic triblock polymers. The instant invention claims a polyurethane based elastomeric foam. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute polyurethane for the styrenic components of Berry in view of Miller because of the teachings of Shah et al. that polyurethane makes a layer similar to that of styrene based elastomers.

6. Claims 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berry in view of Miller as applied to claims 1-13, 20-25 and 29 above, and further in view of Cheong (U.s. 5,571,529).

Cheong teaches the use of various topical medicinal substances in a foam layer that is in contact with skin (col. 3, lines 50-65). The instant invention claims the storage of and release of various active agents in a microporous elastomeric layer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used a topical medicine or other active

Art Unit: 1772

substance in the microporous bandage layer of Berry in view Miller in order to deliver an active substance to a user's skin layer because of the teachings of Cheong.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Watkins III whose telephone number is 703-308-2420. The examiner works an increased flex time schedule, but can normally be reached Monday through Friday, 11:30 A.M. through 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time. The examiner returns all calls within one business day unless an extended absence is noted on his voice mail greeting.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 703-308-4251. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0651.



WW/ww

October 1, 2001

**WILLIAM P. WATKINS III  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**